



Fact Sheet:

House Armed Services Committee Oversight of Force Protection Issues

June 23, 2005

April-October 2003	Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) attacks grow steadily. Reach more than 100 per month.
September 2003	In response to operational needs statement (ONS) for the year, tactical vehicle armor requirements set at 8,400 Humvee (HMMWV) add-on armor kits, 1,150 medium tactical vehicle kits, and 1,080 heavy tactical vehicle kits. (Medium and heavy tactical vehicles are referred to as tactical trucks.)
October 2003	Army Research Laboratory (ARL) designs and produces 40 initial kits of HMMWV add-on armor.
November 2003	<p>Army determines HMMWV ARL add-on armor kits will receive top priority in manufacturing and fielding given current threat assessment in Iraq. Army sets vehicle payload capacity restrictions for add-on armor due to HMMWV chassis capability.</p> <p>Army begins testing potential add-on armor solutions from industry at Army Test Center, Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG), Maryland.</p>
December 2003	<p>House Armed Services Committee (HASC) begins oversight of Army armor programs to include vehicle and personnel armor initiatives such as add-on armor kits and interceptor body armor production capacity.</p> <p>Army approves \$129 million for add-on armor kits. \$300 million remains unfunded.</p> <p>HASC oversight team visits Aberdeen Proving Grounds to review testing of potential vehicle add-on armor solutions. HASC team and APG team create direct link for receiving potential armor samples from commercial sector for immediate testing at APG.</p> <p>HASC engages Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to find and develop vehicle add-on armor solutions.</p> <p>Body armor production increases to maximum level of 25,000 sets/month; employing eight vendors and maximizing available materiel and plant capacities.</p>
January 2004	<p>Additional unvalidated requirement for 3,670 add-on armor kits is submitted via ONS from Iraqi theater.</p> <p>HASC reviews Army production plan originally scheduled to complete 7,000 HMMWV add-on armor kits by December 2004. HASC determines best production effort could finish 7,000 kits by April 30, 2004.</p> <p>HASC submits memo to the Army noting that arsenals, depots, industry, and steel mills are not operating at maximum capacity.</p>

United States Marine Corps (USMC) determines that on redeployment to Iraq, all vehicles in First Marine Expeditionary Force's (MEF) inventory will have some form of armor protection.

February 2004 HASC oversight team and Army team visit steel mills. Reach agreement with steel mill management and union officials to voluntarily set aside commercial work and dedicate 100% capacity to vehicle add-on armor plate production.

HASC oversight team travels to M1114 Up-Armor HMMWV manufacturing facility in Fairfield, Ohio to assess production capacity. HASC works with Army and contractor to begin expanding production to maximum level.

Delivery schedule for steel is compressed by four months. HASC finds available Stryker steel armor plate at mill.

Feb 4, 2004 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

HASC determines that additional manufacturing capacity is required for add-on armor kit production. Army commits nine depots and arsenals to armor kit production.

Army stands-up the Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise to act as integrator and manager of depots and arsenals producing armor kits.

Original Army installation plan requires the cycling of vehicles from Iraq into Kuwait for armor kit installation. HASC determines that U.S. production will outpace installation capability in Kuwait.

March 2004 HASC issues memo to the Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) suggesting that 11 sites be opened in Iraq to install HMMWV add-on armor.

Mar. 2, 2004 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

Sec. Army directs compression of schedule to HASC recommended production rates.

United States Central Command (CENTCOM) issues ONS for additional 4,760 add-on armor kits.

Army notifies HASC of delinquent deliveries of steel from Canadian steel mill and requests HASC assistance to resolve issues. HASC oversight team on-site visit to Canadian steel mill resolves delivery issues.

USMC produces and installs enough high hard (3/16th) steel add-on armor kits (level 3 protection) for First MEF vehicles in three months, totaling approximately 3,000 vehicles.

April 2004 HASC expands focus to the armoring of the tactical truck fleet.

Apr. 1, 2004 HASC Tactical Air Land Subcommittee hearing, panel dedicated to force protection and armor kit status and future requirements.

Apr. 21, 2004 HASC hearing on Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armoring and Acquisition System Responsiveness to Operational Needs Statements from theater. HASC highlights an unvalidated ONS from theater for additional 4,760 HMMWV add-on armor kits. HASC notes this ONS is still unvalidated.

Stryker steel arrives at Letterkenny Army Arsenal for fabrication.

CENTCOM reports 100% requirements filled on body armor for entire theater of operations to include DOD civilians.

May 2004 Army completes 6,670 HMMWV armor kits one week late to the HASC schedule but six months ahead of the original Army schedule.

May 20, 2004 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 passes the House.

Bill authorizes emergency bridge supplemental that contains over \$1 billion for vehicle armoring initiatives; bill also includes provision creating Rapid Acquisition Authority for SecDef. Rapid Acquisition Authority allows the SecDef “to waive any provision of law, policy, directive, or regulation” to purchase any equipment that is “urgently needed to eliminate a combat capability deficiency that has resulted in combat fatalities.”

USMC begins converting First MEF “level 3” high hard armor kits to “level 2” 3/8th inch rolled homogenous armor kits.

HASC oversight team begins receiving weekly updates from theater on armor kit status in Iraq to include installation timelines.

June 2004

Stryker steel gun boxes delivered to Iraq for installation and gun truck kit fabrication.

Jun. 10, 2004 HASC Member classified briefing on status of force protection initiatives in Iraq.

July 2004

Army releases first funding for five-ton medium tactical truck armor kits.

August 2004

Army finally validates CENTCOM ONS for additional 4,760 HMMWV add-on armor kits four months after HASC received the ONS from theater and highlighted the need at hearing in April 2004.

CENTCOM requirement jumps to 13,876 add-on armor kits for HMMWVs.

USMC indicates all Marine tactical wheeled vehicles in theater now have at the minimum, “level 2” armor.

October 2004

HASC oversight trip to oversee force protection systems production.

M1114 Up-Armor HMMWV monthly production reaches 450/month.

November 2004

Aluminum mill shipments threaten to break production of armor kits for tactical trucks. HASC team meets with aluminum company executives and arranges for shift in priorities back to military armor programs.

HASC oversight trip to the Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) manufacturing facility to assess its production capacity and the possibility of acceleration.

HASC oversight trip to medium and heavy tactical truck armor kit manufacturers and body armor manufacturer to assess status.

Army announces vehicle armoring strategy for armoring as quickly as possible tactical wheeled vehicles in theater through three levels of protection to include “level 1” (factory produced M1114 up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs)), “level 2” armor (factory produced add on kits), and “level 3” (locally procured and produced add-on kits meeting Army specifications)

December 2004

HASC oversight trip discovers that IED countermeasure supplier running out of Army funding and laying-off critical production personnel.

HASC Chairman holds Army \$2 billion reprogramming action pending full funding of IED countermeasure production.

Army has now tested over 207 different Armor proposals from 40 vendors.

Sec. Army stands-up Armor Task Force to establish formal process for gathering all relevant players together to formulate the path forward for armor.

USMC begins production of next generation level 2 armor kits for HMMWVs and tactical trucks.

January 2005 Army ships first five ton truck kit, three months later than the original commitment.

HASC oversight team analyzes possibility of Low Cost IED Jammers.

CENTCOM reports official policy that no unarmored vehicles shall operate outside of secured forward operating bases after Feb. 15, 2005.

HASC Chairman receives status update on current threat assessments in Iraq.

February 2005 Army reports deliveries of IED countermeasures will not be complete until November 2005.

Feb. 2, 2005 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

HASC oversight trip to IED countermeasure manufacturer.

HASC oversight trip to IED 2nd countermeasure 2nd tier manufacturer.

HASC oversight trips to tactical truck armor kit manufacturers and Army and Marine Corps depot facilities to assess progress on armor kit production.

HASC oversight team meets with senior OSD staff and USMC to discuss potential interim solution for underbody armor kits to address intensifying stacked mine threat to Marines operating in Iraq.

March 2005 HASC oversight trip walks 3rd tier IED countermeasure production lines to eliminate production delays.

HASC Tactical Air Land Subcommittee hearing on land component budget request, one panel dedicated to force protection.

M1114 Up-Armor HMMWV validated theater requirement increases. Tactical vehicle add-on armor requirements increase slightly.

M1114 Up-Armor HMMWV monthly production reaches 550/month, seen as maximum production rate.

USMC establishes armor install site in Camp Taqqadum, Iraq. Begin to install next generation level 2 armor kits at rate of 200/month.

April 2005 Low Cost IED jammer solutions tested at Yuma.

HASC Chairman meets with General William Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps to readdress underbody armor kit interim solution proposal.

HASC Chairman suggests using readily available excess armor panels located at Army Materiel Command depot in Kuwait for the HMMWV underbody protection kit interim solution.

General Nyland agrees and commits to HASC Chairman to contract and ship armor panels from Kuwait to Marine units operating in Iraq for HMMWV underbody protection kits.

Body armor update: Army has now fielded over 672,000 outer tactical vests (OTVs) and 539,000 sets of small arms protective inserts (SAPI).

May 2005 HASC Chairman requests DepSecDef use Rapid Acquisition Authority to mass produce Low Cost Jammer.

SecDef issues determination and the first use of Rapid Acquisition Authority.

Second source established for Low Cost Jammer production.

May 5, 2005 HASC Hearing on Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armoring and IED Countermeasure initiatives in Iraq.

HASC Chairman meets with Lieutenant General Duncan McNabb, Director for Logistics, Joint Staff to receive personnel force protection update to include vehicle armor, gun trucks, Marine Corps underbody protection kits, and reallocation of equipment in theater.

HASC Chairman learns Marine Corps underbody armor kit contract for shipment of armor panels has yet to be awarded.

FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental passes the House.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 passes the House. Authorizes emergency fund to include force protection initiatives, and expands Rapid Acquisition Authority.

June 2005

June 21, 2005 HASC Hearing on Marine Corps Underbody Kit Armor Kits.

HASC oversight trip to Low Cost Jammer manufacturers.

USMC finally awards contract for interim underbody armor kit solution – four months after General Nyland agrees to expedite the contract. Official completion to occur two months after the contract award.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army approves Army's Long Term Armoring Strategy to include lessons learned from Iraq.

Low Cost Jammer contract awarded and production begins. Over 4,500 units to be delivered in 58 days of contract award.